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ABSTRACT

The Public Libraries Survey, with the cooperation of all 50 state library agencies, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories, provides statistics about income, operating expenditures, staffing, size of collection, circulation, interlibrary loans, hours of operation, electronic access, and other items. One popular use of these data is to compare one library's service measures with those of other libraries. The validity of comparisons between two libraries is dependent on the similarity of the libraries being compared; comparisons among similar libraries are called "peer comparisons." The purpose of this article is to help public library practitioners compare their library with its peers, when peer groups are defined in terms of library size. Once libraries were assigned to peer groups based on population of legal service area and total operating expenditures, comparisons of service performance were made. Service performance was defined in terms of five input variables (public library service hours per year, total librarians, total ALA-MLS librarians, total number of subscriptions, and total number of books and serials) and seven output variables (library visits per capita, children's program attendance, circulation of children's materials, interlibrary loans received per 1,000 population, interlibrary loans provided, total per capita reference transactions, and total per capita circulation). (Contains 14 tables.) (AEF)

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Statistics in Brief

September 1998

How Does Your Public Library Compare? Service Performance of Peer Groups

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Since 1989, the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has collected the only current nationwide data on nearly 9,000 public libraries in the United States. The Public Libraries Survey, with the cooperation of all 50 state library agencies, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories, provides statistics about income, operating expenditures, staffing, size of collection, circulation, interlibrary loans, hours of operation, electronic access, and other items. These data are used by federal, state, and local officials, professional associations, researchers, and local practitioners for planning, evaluation, and policy making.

One popular use of these data is to compare one library's service measures (e.g., per capita circulation or library visits) with those of other libraries. For example, a local library administrator may want to use subscription data from other public libraries to justify an increased subscriptions budget for his or her public library. However, if the libraries compared are not of similar size, or vary widely on some other critical variable, the validity of the comparisons may be questionable. Two measures of library size, for example, are population of the legal service area and total operating expenditures. If the libraries compared vary greatly on one or both of these variables, one could be said to be comparing "apples to oranges." For example, if two libraries served the same number of people, comparing per capita circulation rates between a library with $2 million in total operating expenditures and one with only $100,000 would not be a fair comparison. This is because one would expect much larger per capita circulation for a library with operating expenditures 20 times that of a smaller library. Thus, the results likely have more to do with library size than service quality. Likewise, comparing per capita circulation of two libraries, each with $2 million in total operating expenditures would not be a fair comparison if one library served a population of 100,000 and the other 500,000.

The validity of comparisons between two libraries is dependent upon the similarity of the libraries being compared. Comparisons among similar libraries are called "peer comparisons." The purpose of this article is to help public library practitioners compare their library with its peers, when peer groups are defined in terms of library size.

Determining Peer Groups

The first step in peer comparison is to group libraries so that similarly sized libraries fall into peer groups. The 8,981 libraries included in the 1995 public libraries data set vary from one another. Some are in big cities, some in small. Some are located in densely populated areas, some in sparsely populated areas. Some have annual budgets in the millions of dollars, while others have only thousands. Some are in states which classify all their libraries into a few large systems, while others are classified by their states into many small systems.

This report categorized the almost 9,000 public libraries in the public library data set into peer groups based on size of population of the legal service area[1] and total operating expenditures[2] to control for variability in size. The categories used were identified by NCES in consultation with various experts in public library operations and have been used in previous Public Libraries Survey Publications. The categories are as follows:

Population of the Legal Service Area:

Less than 1,000
1,000 to 2,499
2,500 to 4,999
5,000 to 9,999
10,000 to 24,999
25,000 to 49,999
50,000 to 99,999
100,000 to 249,999
250,000 to 499,999
500,000 to 999,999
1,000,000 or more

Total Operating Expenditures:

Less than $10,000
$10,000 to $49,999
$50,000 to $99,999
$100,000 to $199,999
$200,000 to $399,999
$400,000 to $699,999
$700,000 to $999,999
$1,000,000 to $4,999,999
$5,000,000 or more

Once libraries were assigned to peer groups based on these two variables, comparisons of service performance were made. For the purpose of this report, service performance was defined in terms of five public library input variables[3] (public library service hours per year, total librarians, total ALA-MLS[4] librarians, total number of subscriptions, and total number of books and serials) and seven output variables (library visits per capita, children's program attendance, circulation of children's materials, interlibrary loans received per 1,000 population, interlibrary loans provided, total per capita reference transactions, and total per capita circulation). It should be noted that these 12 service performance variables were selected by the authors of this publication on the assumption that these would be of general interest to the reader.

Tables

Table 1 shows the number of public libraries in each peer group defined by population of legal service and total operating expenditures. Tables 2 through 14 compare the median service performance input and output variables for each peer group. Tables 2 through 14 may be used to compare an individual public library's performance with the median performance of libraries with similar populations of legal service area and total operating expenditures.

As noted, the cells for all tables in this report, with the exception of table 1, report medians. The median is the exact point which divides a distribution in half. The median is the most most accurate measure of central tendency in a distribution skewed by extreme *high* or *low* values. Peer groups with fewer than 10 public libraries present an increased risk of yielding unreliable estimates, thus medians in such cases were not reported. The tables of this report describe the following:

Table 1— The number of public libraries included in each peer group.

Table 2— The median number of public library visits per capita of the population of the legal service area.

Table 3— The median number of public service hours per year for public libraries.

Table 4— The median of the mean[5] number of public service hours per outlet, per year for public libraries.

Table 5— Median children's program attendance for public libraries.

Table 6— Median circulation of children's materials in public libraries.

Table 7— Median number of interlibrary loans received by public libraries from other libraries per 1,000 population of the legal service area.

Table 8— Median number of interlibrary loans provided by public libraries to other libraries.

Table 9— Median number of public libraries reference transactions per capita of the population of the legal service area.

Table 10—Median public library total circulation per capita of population of the legal service area.

Table 11—Median number of total librarians in public libraries.

Table 12—Median number of ALA-MLS librarians in public libraries.

Table 13—Median number of subscriptions for public libraries.

Table 14—Median number of book and serial volumes for public libraries.

Caveats in using the public library data for peer comparisons: It must be noted that certain factors such as proximity to other libraries or bookstores, building size, geographic differences, or presence of other community activities can account for differences in a library's service performance compared to its peers. However, such factors are not addressed in this article nor addressed in the public library data set.

Technical Notes

Survey Universe

The respondents for the public library survey were the 8,981 public libraries identified in the 50 states and the District of Columbia by state library agencies. If State library agencies identified libraries on Native American Reservations, they were included in the data base. Data were not collected from military libraries that provide public library services or from libraries that serve the residents of institutions.

Survey Response

Unit response. A total of 8,763 of the 8,981 public libraries responded to the Public Libraries Survey, for a unit response rate of 97.6 percent. Respondents to the survey are defined as public library administrative entities for which population of the legal service area was reported and which responded to at least three of the five following survey items: total paid employees, total income, total operating expenditures, book/serial volumes, and total circulation.

Data Collection and Use of Technology

The Public Libraries Survey, FY 1995 was mailed to the states in late-May, 1996 and had a due date of July 31, 1996. The last state submission was received in mid-March, 1997. States reported their data to NCES using a personal computer software provided by NCES known as DECPLUS (Data Entry Conversion, Public Library Universe System). DECPLUS permits direct data entry or the import of data from machine-readable files (e.g., Lotus 1-2-3, dBASE, or ASCII). Data reported on this survey are usually only part of the data most states collect from their local public libraries. Most states collect data from their public libraries using paper forms, rather than electronically.

Editing

State level. The DECPLUS software has an edit program that generates on-screen error warnings during the data entry/import process, enabling the respondent to review their data and correct many errors immediately. Following data entry/import, the respondent can generate an on-screen or printed error report of data falling outside established limits, for additional review and possible revision of their data before submission of the final file to NCES. The edit checks that were performed on the data included:

1. Relational checks
2. Out-of-range checks
3. Arithmetic checks and
4. Checks for invalid blanks or zeros

Respondents also used DECPLUS to generate state summary tables of their data, and single-library tables, showing data for individual public libraries. States were encouraged to review the tables for data quality problems before submitting their final data to NCES. States submitted their final data with a signed form from the Chief Officer of the State Library Agency, certifying the accuracy of their data.

Data submissions were reviewed upon receipt for completeness and states were immediately contacted to resolve any problems. Nonresponse follow-up was conducted shortly after the survey due date. After data were received from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, they were reviewed and questionable data were identified. The findings were mailed back to the States in April 1997, along with a copy of their state data. The States reviewed these findings and submitted revised data (if appropriate). The last data correction was submitted in May, 1997.

Imputation

All missing items on the Fiscal Year 95 Public Libraries Survey data file were imputed except for Annual Public Service Hours. The imputation methodology was developed for NCES by the Census Bureau. For further information on imputation, see the E.D. Tab: *Public Libraries in the United States: FY 1995 (August, 1998).* Government Printing Office.

How to Use the Tables

The tables in this publication were designed with a user-friendly format in mind. To determine which peer group your library is part of, for any of the 14 tables, it is necessary to know the library's population of the legal service area and total annual operating expenditures.

{Suppose "Library A" has a Population of the Legal Service Area of 11,500 people and Total Operating Expenditures of $56,000}.

Turn to table 1. Next, on the far left-hand column of the table identify the legal service area category that contains 11,500. Put a left-hand finger on this category. Then, across the very top row, determine which column of Total Operating Expenditure contains $56,000. Put a right-hand finger on this category.

Now, move your left-hand finger across the table and your right-hand finger down the table until they meet.

{ Your fingers should meet on a cell containing the number 182. This means that, including "Library A," there are a total of 182 public libraries within your library's Population of the Legal Service Area and Total Operating Expenditures peer group. Follow the same proceedure for table 2 and you will see that a median of 1.9 library visits were made per capita for library A's peers. The same approach should be used for the remaining tables}.

Notes

[1]Population of the legal service area means the number of people in the geographic area for which a public library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income, plus any area served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider (DECPLUS User's Guide Version 2.2, 1996).

[2]Total operating expenditures includes total expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collection, and other operating expenditures. [Data Entry Conversion Public, Library Universe System (DECPLUS) User's Guide Version 2.2, 1996].

[3]Input variables are resources of the library contributing to library service at every level. Definitions for variables are included as footnotes in relevant tables.

[4]ALA-MLS are librarians with master's degrees from programs of library and information studies accredited by the American Library Association. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

[5]Median of the mean was derived using a three step process which (1) partitioned each of the 8,981 public libraries into peer groups; (2) divided the total number of annual library public service hours by the total number of outlets (including branch libraries and bookmobiles) for each of the 8,981 public libraries, thus, the public service hours for all the outlets in a given public library are shown as one average; and (3) determined the median of the step two averages, for each peer group.

Table 1–Number of public libraries, by population of legal service area and by total operating expenditures: Fiscal Year 1995

	Total Operating Expenditures									
	Less than $10,000	$10,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $99,999	$100,000 to $199,999	$200,000 to $399,999	$400,000 to $699,999	$700,000 to $999,999	$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	$5,000,000 or more	TOTAL
Pop. of the Legal Service Area										
Less than 1,000	604	366	19	2	-	2	-	-	-	**993**
1,000 to 2,499	303	1,143	155	41	2	-	-	-	-	**1,644**
2,500 to 4,999	50	694	418	144	28	4	1	-	-	**1,339**
5,000 to 9,999	12	264	476	479	211	56	4	6	-	**1,508**
10,000 to 24,999	10	71	182	417	530	304	70	73	-	**1,657**
25,000 to 49,999	2	8	18	72	191	253	150	168	1	**863**
50,000 to 99,999	-	1	3	11	40	100	99	253	2	**509**
100,000 to 249,999	-	1	-	-	4	15	21	232	33	**306**
250,000 to 499,999	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	32	55	**92**
500,000 to 999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	**50**
1,000,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	**20**
TOTAL	**981**	**2,548**	**1,271**	**1,166**	**1,006**	**739**	**345**	**764**	**161**	**8,981**

NOTES: **Population of the Legal Service Area** is the number of people in the geographic area for which a public library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income, plus any areas served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Total Operating Expenditures includes total expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collection, and other operating expenditures (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

"-" indicates no library in the cell

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS) Public Libraries Survey. Fiscal Year 1995

Table 2–Median number of public library visits per capita of population of the legal service area, by population of the legal service area and by total operating expenditures: Fiscal year 1995

	Total Operating Expenditures								
	Less than $10,000	$10,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $99,999	$100,000 to $199,999	$200,000 to $399,999	$400,000 to $699,999	$700,000 to $999,999	$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	$5,000,000 or more
Pop. of the Legal Service Area									
Less than 1,000	3.4	6.0	13.1	----	-	----	-	-	-
1,000 to 2,499	1.9	4.0	7.3	10.4	----	-	-	-	-
2,500 to 4,999	.9	2.9	4.6	6.4	10.5	----	----	-	-
5,000 to 9,999	.3	1.8	3.2	4.5	6.3	10.3	----	----	-
10,000 to 24,999	----	.4	1.9	2.9	4.3	5.9	7.8	10.8	-
25,000 to 49,999	----	----	1.0	1.7	2.2	4.0	4.7	7.1	----
50,000 to 99,999	-	----	----	1.0	1.5	2.1	3.1	4.8	----
100,000 to 249,999	-	----	-	-	----	1.0	1.9	3.3	5.3
250,000 to 499,999	-	-	-	-	-	----	-	2.5	3.8
500,000 to 999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.4
1,000,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.8

NOTES: **Population of the Legal Service Area** is the number of people in the geographic area for which a public library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income, plus any areas served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider. (DECPLUS User's Guide;Version 2.2, 1996).

Total Operating Expenditures includes total expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collection, and other operating expenditures (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Library Visits is the total number of persons entering the library for whatever purpose during the year. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

"-" indicates no library in the cell ; "----" indicates that the small number of libraries in the cell (9 or fewer) may yield an unreliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS) Public Libraries Survey. Fiscal Year 1995

Table 3–Median number of public service hours per year for public libraries, by population of the legal service area and by total operating expenditures: Fiscal year 1995

	Total Operating Expenditures								
	Less than $10,000	$10,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $99,999	$100,000 to $199,999	$200,000 to $399,999	$400,000 to $699,999	$700,000 to $999,999	$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	$5,000,000 or more
Pop. of the Legal Service Area									
Less than 1,000	520	1,014	1,768	----	-	----	-	-	-
1,000 to 2,499	700	1,226	1,872	2,132	----	-	-	-	-
2,500 to 4,999	728	1,500	1,950	2,288	2,314	----	----	-	-
5,000 to 9,999	754	1,648	2,098	2,480	2,769	3,001	----	----	-
10,000 to 24,999	----	1,820	2,277	2,600	2,893	3,100	3,200	3,477	-
25,000 to 49,999	----	----	2,476	2,783	3,380	3,315	3,541	3,614	----
50,000 to 99,999	-	----	----	2,392	4,195	5,711	6,006	6,294	----
100,000 to 249,999	-	----	-	-	----	8,912	8,952	13,441	19,686
250,000 to 499,999	-	-	-	-	-	----	-	19,408	29,600
500,000 to 999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53,876
1,000,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	81,158

NOTES: **Population of the Legal Service Area** is the number of people in the geographic area for which a public library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income, plus any areas served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Total Operating Expenditures includes total expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collection, and other operating expenditures (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Public Service Hours per Year is the sum of annual public service hours for public library service outlets. (DECPLUS User's Guide Version; 2.2, 1996). Note: This variable is not imputed. This variable is reported as a cumulative total of all public service hours for all outlets in a public library.

Public Library Service Outlet is a unit of a public library that provides public library service. There are four types: Central outlets, Branch outlets, Bookmobile outlets, and Book-by-Mail outlets.

"-" indicates no library in the cell; "----" indicates that the small number of libraries in the cell (9 or fewer) may yield an unreliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS) Public Libraries Survey. Fiscal Year 1995

Table 4–Median of the mean[1] number of public service hours per outlet, per year for public libraries, by population of the legal service area and by total operating expenditures: Fiscal year 1995

	Total Operating Expenditures								
	Less than $10,000	$10,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $99,999	$100,000 to $199,999	$200,000 to $399,999	$400,000 to $699,999	$700,000 to $999,999	$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	$5,000,000 or more
Pop. of the Legal Service Area									
Less than 1,000	520	1,014	1,768	----	-	----	-	-	-
1,000 to 2,499	700	1,143	1,820	2,114	----	-	-	-	-
2,500 to 4,999	728	1,496	1,949	2,285	2,314	----	----	-	-
5,000 to 9,999	754	1,648	2,080	2,444	2,756	2,962	----	----	-
10,000 to 24,999	----	1,820	2,236	2,496	2,798	3,023	3,155	3,432	-
25,000 to 49,999	----	----	2,371	2,610	2,756	2,957	3,173	3,523	----
50,000 to 99,999	-	----	----	2,392	2,620	2,218	2,925	3,239	----
100,000 to 249,999	-	----	-	-	----	1,703	2,438	2,726	2,737
250,000 to 499,999	-	-	-	-	-	----	-	2,288	2,508
500,000 to 999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,524
1,000,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,086

NOTES: **Population of the Legal Service Area** is the number of people in the geographic area for which a public library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income, plus any areas served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Total Operating Expenditures includes total expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collection, and other operating expenditures (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Public Service Hours per Year is the sum of annual public service hours for public library service outlets. (DECPLUS User's Guide Version; 2.2, 1996). Note: This variable is not imputed. This variable is reported as a cumulative total of all public service hours for all outlets in a public library.

Public Library Service Outlet is a unit of a public library that provides public library service. There are four types: Central outlets, Branch outlets, Bookmobile outlets, and Book-by-Mail outlets.

"-" indicates no library in the cell, "----" indicates that the small number of libraries in the cell (9 or fewer) may yield an unreliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS) Public Libraries Survey. Fiscal Year 1995

[1] Median of the mean was derived using a three step process which 1) partitioned each of the 8,981 public libraries into peer groups; 2) divided the total number of annual library public service hours by the total number of outlets (including branch libraries and bookmobiles) for each of the 8,981 public libraries. Thus, the public service hours for all the outlets in a given public library are shown as one average; and 3) determined the median of the step two averages, for each peer group.

Table 5–Median children's program attendance for public libraries, by population of the legal service area and by total operating expenditures: Fiscal year 1995

	Total Operating Expenditures								
	Less than $10,000	$10,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $99,999	$100,000 to $199,999	$200,000 to $399,999	$400,000 to $699,999	$700,000 to $999,999	$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	$5,000,000 or more
Pop. of the Legal Service Area									
Less than 1,000	69	191	505	----	-	----	-	-	-
1,000 to 2,499	82	302	658	792	----	-	-	-	-
2,500 to 4,999	162	378	800	1,539	2,213	----	----	-	-
5,000 to 9,999	81	502	903	1,522	2,097	3,603	----	----	-
10,000 to 24,999	----	473	1,077	1,852	2,504	3,859	5,744	7,818	-
25,000 to 49,999	----	----	851	1,205	3,451	5,133	6,062	8,000	----
50,000 to 99,999	-	----	----	2,180	3,302	5,962	6,252	11,092	----
100,000 to 249,999	-	----	-	-	----	5,486	9,416	17,005	28,892
250,000 to 499,999	-	-	-	-	-	----	-	28,167	40,094
500,000 to 999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	75,997
1,000,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	170,020

NOTES: **Population of the Legal Service Area** is the number of people in the geographic area for which a public library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income, plus any areas served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider. (DECPLUS User's Guide, Version 2.2, 1996).

Total Operating Expenditures includes total expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collection, and other operating expenditures (DECPLUS User's Guide, Version 2.2, 1996).

Children's Program Attendance is the count of the audience at all programs for which the primary audience is children. Includes adults who attend programs intended primarily for children. (DECPLUS User's Guide, Version 2.2, 1996).

"-" indicates no library in the cell; "----" indicates that the small number of libraries in the cell (9 or fewer) may yield an unreliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS) Public Libraries Survey, Fiscal Year 1995

Table 6–Median circulation (in thousands) of children's materials in public libraries, by population of the legal service area and by total operating expenditures: Fiscal year 1995

	Total Operating Expenditures								
	Less than $10,000	$10,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $99,999	$100,000 to $199,999	$200,000 to $399,999	$400,000 to $699,999	$700,000 to $999,999	$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	$5,000,000 or more
Pop. of the Legal Service Area									
Less than 1,000	1.1	3.0	6.4	----	-	----	-	-	-
1,000 to 2,499	1.7	4.7	9.7	11.6	----	-	-	-	-
2,500 to 4,999	1.9	6.0	11.7	16.2	21.0	----	----	-	-
5,000 to 9,999	1.9	7.4	13.2	22.2	30.5	43.6	----	----	-
10,000 to 24,999	----	7.7	15.5	25.7	38.9	63.8	68.8	101.9	-
25,000 to 49,999	----	----	13.9	25.6	44.1	73.2	96.2	143.5	----
50,000 to 99,999	-	----	----	19.1	42.7	72.0	97.0	195.5	----
100,000 to 249,999	-	----	-	-	----	78.1	122.0	242.4	530.5
250,000 to 499,999	-	-	-	-	-	----	-	443.1	784.2
500,000 to 999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,309.6
1,000,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,189.1

NOTES: **Population of the Legal Service Area** is the number of people in the geographic area for which a public library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income, plus any areas served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Total Operating Expenditures includes total expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collection, and other operating expenditures (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Circulation of Children's Materials is the total annual circulation of all children's materials in all formats to all users. It includes renewals. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

"-" indicates no library in the cell; "----" indicates that the small number of libraries in the cell (9 or fewer) may yield an unreliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS) Public Libraries Survey. Fiscal Year 1995

Table 7–Median number of interlibrary loans received by public libraries from other libraries per 1,000 population, by population of the legal service area and by total operating expenditures: Fiscal year 1995

	Total Operating Expenditures								
	Less than $10,000	$10,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $99,999	$100,000 to $199,999	$200,000 to $399,999	$400,000 to $699,999	$700,000 to $999,999	$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	$5,000,000 or more
Pop. of the Legal Service Area									
Less than 1,000	41.3	115.4	276.7	----	-	----	-	-	-
1,000 to 2,499	14.9	75.5	137.9	192.4	----	-	-	-	-
2,500 to 4,999	2.4	46.2	84.5	124.1	154.4	----	----	-	-
5,000 to 9,999	5.4	21.2	38.0	63.3	83.1	137.8	----	----	-
10,000 to 24,999	----	6.6	17.4	29.7	44.9	67.6	72.9	101.4	-
25,000 to 49,999	----	----	5.3	11.6	13.4	29.9	34.7	63.7	----
50,000 to 99,999	-	----	----	5.7	8.3	10.0	13.9	22.1	----
100,000 to 249,999	-	----	-	-	----	4.7	6.5	11.5	12.8
250,000 to 499,999	-	-	-	-	-	----	-	8.2	9.2
500,000 to 999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.0
1,000,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0

NOTES: **Population of the Legal Service Area** is the number of people in the geographic area for which a public library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income, plus any areas served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Total Operating Expenditures includes total expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collection, and other operating expenditures (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Interlibrary Loans Received From are library materials, or copies of the materials, received by one library from another library upon request. The libraries involved in interlibrary loans are not under the same library administration. These data are reported as annual figures. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

"-" indicates no library in the cell; "—" indicates that the small number of libraries in the cell (9 or fewer) may yield an unreliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS) Public Libraries Survey. Fiscal Year 1995

Table 8–Median number of interlibrary loans provided by public libraries to other libraries, by population of the legal service area and by total operating expenditure: Fiscal year 1995

	Total Operating Expenditures								
	Less than $10,000	$10,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $99,999	$100,000 to $199,999	$200,000 to $399,999	$400,000 to $699,999	$700,000 to $999,999	$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	$5,000,000 or more
Pop. of the Legal Service Area									
Less than 1,000	0	5	50	----	-	----	-	-	-
1,000 to 2,499	0	7	43	65	----	-	-	-	-
2,500 to 4,999	0	12	70.5	98	351	----	----	-	-
5,000 to 9,999	0	6	48	150	282	899	----	----	-
10,000 to 24,999	----	0	3	71	412.5	761.5	1,313.5	1,826	-
25,000 to 49,999	----	----	0	15	102	739	856.5	1,743	----
50,000 to 99,999	-	----	----	10	83	273	564	1,618	----
100,000 to 249,999	-	----	-	-	----	215	175	1,553.5	3,702
250,000 to 499,999	-	-	-	-	-	----	-	2,125.5	6,088
500,000 to 999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,464
1,000,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,549.5

NOTES: **Population of the Legal Service Area** is the number of people in the geographic area for which a public library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income, plus any areas served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider. (DECPLUS User's Guide, Version 2.2, 1997).

Total Operating Expenditures includes total expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collection, and other operating expenditures (DECPLUS User's Guide, Version 2.2, 1996).

Interlibrary Loans Provided To are library materials, or copies of the materials, provided by one library to another upon request. The libraries involved in interlibrary loans are not under the same library administration. These data are reported as annual figures. (DECPLUS User's Guide, Version 2.2, 1996).

"-" indicates no library in the cell; "0" indicates a zero value in the cell; "----" indicates that the small number of libraries in the cell (9 or fewer) may yield an unreliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS) Public Libraries Survey, Fiscal Year 1995.

Table 9--Median number of public library reference transactions per capita of population of the legal service area, by population of the legal service area and by total operating expenditures: Fiscal year 1995

	Total Operating Expenditures								
	Less than $10,000	$10,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $99,999	$100,000 to $199,999	$200,000 to $399,999	$400,000 to $699,999	$700,000 to $999,999	$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	$5,000,000 or more
Pop. of the Legal Service Area									
Less than 1,000	.5	.6	.7	----	-	----	-	-	-
1,000 to 2,499	.1	.4	.9	.9	----	-	-	-	-
2,500 to 4,999	.1	.3	.5	.7	1.0	----	----	-	-
5,000 to 9,999	.1	.2	.3	.5	.8	1.1	----	----	-
10,000 to 24,999	----	.1	.2	.3	.5	.7	1.3	1.8	-
25,000 to 49,999	----	----	.1	.1	.3	.5	.6	.9	----
50,000 to 99,999	-	----	----	.1	.2	.3	.4	.7	----
100,000 to 249,999	-	----	-	-	----	.2	.2	.7	1.4
250,000 to 499,999	-	-	-	-	-	----	-		1.1
500,000 to 999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.3
1,000,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.7

NOTES: **Population of the Legal Service Area** is the number of people in the geographic area for which a public library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income, plus any areas served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Total Operating Expenditures includes total expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collection, and other operating expenditures (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Reference Transaction is an information contact which involves the knowledge, use, recommendations, interpretation, or instruction in the use of one or more information sources by a member of the library staff. It includes information and referral services. Information sources include printed and non-printed materials, machine-readable databases, catalogs and other holdings records, and, through communication or referral, other libraries and institutions and people inside and outside the library. The request may come in person, by phone, by fax, mail, or by electronic-mail from an adult, a young adult, or a child. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

"-" indicates no library in the cell, "----" indicates that the small number of libraries in the cell (9 or fewer) may yield an unreliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS) Public Libraries Survey: Fiscal Year 1995

Table 10–Median public library total circulation per capita of population of the legal service area, by population of the legal service area and by total operating expenditures: Fiscal year 1995

	Total Operating Expenditures								
	Less than $10,000	$10,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $99,999	$100,000 to $199,999	$200,000 to $399,999	$400,000 to $699,999	$700,000 to $999,999	$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	$5,000,000 or more
Pop. of the Legal Service Area									
Less than 1,000	6.6	11.1	23.1	----	-	----	-	-	-
1,000 to 2,499	3.1	7.3	12.9	22.3	----	-	-	-	-
2,500 to 4,999	1.5	4.9	8.6	10.8	18.0	----	----	-	-
5,000 to 9,999	.9	3.1	5.3	8.2	11.3	15.9	----	----	-
10,000 to 24,999	----	1.7	3.2	5.1	7.2	9.7	11.3	13.7	-
25,000 to 49,999	----	----	1.3	2.6	3.7	6.2	8.0	11.2	----
50,000 to 99,999	-	----	----	1.2	2.1	3.3	4.4	7.7	----
100,000 to 249,999	-	----	-	-	----	1.6	2.9	5.3	10.0
250,000 to 499,999	-	-	-	-	-	----	-	3.3	6.5
500,000 to 999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.1
1,000,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.0

NOTES: **Population of the Legal Service Area** is the number of people in the geographic area for which a public library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income, plus any areas served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider. (DECPLUS User's Guide, Version 2.2, 1996).

Total Operating Expenditures includes total expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collection, and other operating expenditures (DECPLUS User's Guide, Version 2.2, 1996).

Total Circulation is the total annual circulation of all library materials of all types, including renewals. (DECPLUS User's Guide, Version 2.2, 1996).

"-" indicates no library in the cell; "----" indicates the number of libraries in the cell (9 or fewer) may yield an unreliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS) Public Libraries Survey, Fiscal Year 1995

Table 11-Median number of total librarians in public libraries, by population of the legal service area and by total operating expenditures: Fiscal year 1995

	Total Operating Expenditures								
	Less than $10,000	$10,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $99,999	$100,000 to $199,999	$200,000 to $399,999	$400,000 to $699,999	$700,000 to $999,999	$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	$5,000,000 or more
Pop. of the Legal Service Area									
Less than 1,000	.3	.5	1.0	----	-	----	-	-	-
1,000 to 2,499	.3	.6	1.0	1.5	----	-	-	-	-
2,500 to 4,999	.2	.8	1.0	1.5	2.2	----	----	-	-
5,000 to 9,999	.5	.8	1.0	1.8	2.4	3.1	----	----	-
10,000 to 24,999	----	.9	1.0	1.8	2.5	4.0	5.3	7.9	-
25,000 to 49,999	----	----	1.0	1.0	3.0	4.7	5.9	9.6	----
50,000 to 99,999	-	----	----	1.0	3.0	4.9	6.2	11.4	----
100,000 to 249,999	-	----	-	-	----	4.0	7.0	15.3	31.0
250,000 to 499,999	-	-	-	-	-	----	-	24.0	49.0
500,000 to 999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90.0
1,000,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	174.0

NOTES: **Population of the Legal Service Area** is the number of people in the geographic area for which a public library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income, plus any areas served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Total Operating Expenditures includes total expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collection, and other operating expenditures (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Total Librarians are persons with the title of librarian who do paid work that usually requires professional training and skill in the theoretical or scientific aspects of library work, or both, as distinct from its mechanical or clerical aspects. This data element also includes ALA-MLS (librarians with master's degrees from programs of library and information studies accredited by the American Library Association (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

"-" indicates no library in the cell; "----" indicates that the small number of libraries in the cell (9 or fewer) may yield an unreliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS) Public Libraries Survey, Fiscal Year 1995

Table 12–Median number of ALA-MLS librarians in public libraries, by population of the legal service area and by total operating expenditures: Fiscal year 1995

	Total Operating Expenditures								
	Less than $10,000	$10,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $99,999	$100,000 to $199,999	$200,000 to $399,999	$400,000 to $699,999	$700,000 to $999,999	$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	$5,000,000 or more
Pop. of the Legal Service Area									
Less than 1,000	0	0	0	----	-	----	-	-	-
1,000 to 2,499	0	0	0	0	----	-	-	-	-
2,500 to 4,999	0	0	0	0	1.0	----	----	-	-
5,000 to 9,999	0	0	0	0	1.0	2.0	----	----	-
10,000 to 24,999	----	0	0	.9	1.0	3.0	5.0	6.8	-
25,000 to 49,999	----	----	.1	1.0	1.0	3.0	4.6	8.4	----
50,000 to 99,999	-	----	----	.9	2.0	3.0	4.0	9.5	----
100,000 to 249,999	-	----	-	-	----	3.0	5.0	11.0	29.0
250,000 to 499,999	-	-	-	-	-	----	-	20.0	43.0
500,000 to 999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71.8
1,000,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	155.0

NOTES: **Population of the Legal Service Area** is the number of people in the geographic area for which a public library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income, plus any areas served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Total Operating Expenditures includes total expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collection, and other operating expenditures (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

ALA-MLS are librarians with master's degrees from programs of library and information studies accredited by the American Library Association. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

"-" indicates no library in the cell; "0" indicates a zero value in the cell; "----" indicates that the small number of libraries in the cell (9 or fewer) may yield an unreliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS) Public Libraries Survey. Fiscal Year 1995

Table 13–Median number of subscriptions for public libraries, by population of the legal service area and by total operating expenditures: Fiscal year 1995

	Total Operating Expenditures								
	Less than $10,000	$10,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $99,999	$100,000 to $199,999	$200,000 to $399,999	$400,000 to $699,999	$700,000 to $999,999	$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	$5,000,000 or more
Pop. of the Legal Service Area									
Less than 1,000	9	25	40	----	-	----	-	-	-
1,000 to 2,499	10	30	56	76	----	-	-	-	-
2,500 to 4,999	8	35	58	79.5	124.5	----	----	-	-
5,000 to 9,999	8	30.5	56	92	129	175.5	----	----	-
10,000 to 24,999	----	30	48.5	85	138	200.5	265	362	-
25,000 to 49,999	----	----	48	87	147	210	292	437	----
50,000 to 99,999	-	----	----	69	140	217	299	475	----
100,000 to 249,999	-	----	-	-	----	248	292	625	1,590
250,000 to 499,999	-	-	-	-	-	----	-	1,057	2,231
500,000 to 999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,141
1,000,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,814

NOTES: **Population of the Legal Service Area** is the number of people in the geographic area for which a public library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income, plus any areas served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Total Operating Expenditures includes total expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collection, and other operating expenditures (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Subscriptions refers to the arrangements by which, in return for a sum paid in advance, periodicals, newspapers, or other serials are provided for a specified number of issues. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

"-" indicates no library in the cell; "----" indicates that the small number of libraries in the cell (9 or fewer) may yield an unreliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS) Public Libraries Survey, Fiscal Year 1995

Table 14--Median number of Book/Serial Volumes for public libraries, by population of the legal service area and by total operating expenditures: Fiscal year 1995

	Total Operating Expenditures								
	Less than $10,000	$10,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $99,999	$100,000 to $199,999	$200,000 to $399,999	$400,000 to $699,999	$700,000 to $999,999	$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	$5,000,000 or more
Pop. of the Legal Service Area									
Less than 1,000	5,686	9,406	15,245	----	-	----	-	-	-
1,000 to 2,499	7,923	11,219	17,735	24,388	----	-	-	-	-
2,500 to 4,999	8,790	13,863	19,908	26,168	31,537	----	----	-	-
5,000 to 9,999	10,147	15,386	21,574	29,798	40,798	56,223	----	----	-
10,000 to 24,999	----	15,747	24,861	35,447	47,851	70,391	87,529	147,330	-
25,000 to 49,999	----	----	26,402	43,370	62,491	85,677	105,232	147,329	----
50,000 to 99,999	-	----	----	41,085	77,979	102,598	137,006	188,821	----
100,000 to 249,999	-	----	-	-	----	135,849	139,952	290,559	575,474
250,000 to 499,999	-	-	-	-	-	----	-	446,195	873,333
500,000 to 999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,541,608
1,000,000 or more	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,430,639

NOTES: **Population of the Legal Service Area** is the number of people in the geographic area for which a public library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income, plus any areas served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Total Operating Expenditures includes total expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collection, and other operating expenditures (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

Book/Serial Volumes: Books are non-periodical printed publications bound in hard or soft covers, or in loose-leaf format. Serials are publications issued in successive parts, usually at regular intervals, and as a rule, intended to be continued indefinitely. Serials include periodicals (magazines), newspapers, annuals (reports, yearbooks, etc.), memoirs, proceedings, and transactions of societies. (DECPLUS User's Guide; Version 2.2, 1996).

"-" indicates no library in the cell; "----" indicates the number of libraries in the cell (9 or fewer) may yield an unreliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS) Public Libraries Survey. Fiscal Year 1995